

Message Text

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ACTION H-01

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R 101057Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 659

INFO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

S E C R E T BANGKOK 2363

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, SNAR, TH

SUBJ: VISIT OF CODEL WOLFF TO THAILAND: ALLEGED SHAN CONTACTS

REF : BANGKOK 0694

1. THE REFERENCE TELEGRAM DESCRIBED CONGRESSMAN WOLFF'S INTEREST IN SHAN PROPOSALS TO DEAL WITH THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE OPIUM PROBLEM AND HIS INTENTION TO CONTACT SHAN REPRESENTATIVES IN THAILAND. AS NOTED, THE FOREIGN MINISTER EXPLAINED TO WOLFF ON JANUARY 8 THAT ANY MEETING BETWEEN WOLFF AND REPRESENTATIVES OF SHAN DISSIDENTS MIGHT EXACERBATE THAI RELATIONS WITH BURMA. WOLFF REPLIED THEN THAT HE UNDERSTOOD AND WOULD DO NOTHING TO HARM RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND BURMA.

2. FOR THE RECORD, WE WISH TO REPORT THAT ADRIAN COWELL, BRITISH TELEVISION JOURNALIST, TOLD COUNSELOR MEHLERT FEBRUARY 3 THAT COWELL, SAO SUA WAI (CHIANG MAI RESIDENT AND REPRESENTATIVE IN THAILAND OF THE SHAN STATE ARMY) AND WOLFF DID MEET AT THE SIAM INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL ON JANUARY 7, THE EVENING OF WOLFF'S ARRIVAL IN THAILAND.

3. COMMENT: BECAUSE THIS MEETING WAS PRIOR TO WOLFF'S CONVERSATION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WOLFF PROBABLY FEELS THAT IT DOES NOT VIOLATE HIS UNDERTAKING TO DO NOTHING TO HARM RELATIONS BETWEEN BURMA AND THAILAND.

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IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER, OF COURSE, IF WOLFF HAD MENTIONED

THIS MEETING WITH SUA WAI TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER. WE
INTEND TO INFORM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF COWELL'S STATE-
MENT CONCERNING THE MEETING BECAUSE (IF FOR NO OTHER
REASON) IT IS LIKELY THAT THE RTG HAS LEARNED ABOUT IT,
OR WILL LEARN ABOUT IT, FROM OTHER SOURCES.
KINTNER

SECRET

NNN

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